GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3931
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2001
CONVERSION OF INS VIKRANT INTO WAR MUSEUM
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conversion of INS Vikrant into War Museum has been delayed since long;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the conversion work of INS Vikrant into War Museum is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): The State Government of Maharashtra had evinced interest in converting `INS Vikrant` into a maritime museum. Accordingly, it was decided to gift the ship to the State Government for conversion into a museum. However, in April, 2000, the State Government conveyed its inability to implement the scheme. As such, it was decided to dispose of the ship as `scrap` and tenders were invited. However, in July, 2000, the State Government of Maharashtra renewed their request for conversion of the ship intoa museum. As such, the process initiated for disposal of the ship as `scrap` was kept in abeyance.

The State Government have since informed that the feasibility report and the site have been finalized. The State Government has been requested to shift the ship to an alternate berth and ensure the ship`s safety.

The museum project is to be undertaken entirely by the Government of Maharashtra and is likely to take about three years to complete. No funding support by the Navy is envisaged.